SI.No. Name of the States	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
26. Tamil Nadu	29.35	4.60	18.78
27. Uttar Pradesh	81.00	—	10,69
28. Uttaranchal	—	1.21	—
29. West Bengal	4.23	11.67	3.52
30. Andaman & Nicobar	—	—	—
31. Chandigarh	—	—	—
32. Dadra & Nagar Haveli	—-	—	—
33. Daman & Diu	—	—	—
34. Lakshadweep	—	—	—
35. Pondicherry	—	—	—
36. Central Social Welfare Board	63.52	30.56	71.44

Amendments to Dowry Prohibition Act

2698. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI:
SHRI AMAR SINGH:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that section 498-A of the Indian Penal Code enacted to prevent harassment to women for dowry is being misued by women to harass their in-laws;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to amend the Dowry Prohibition Act so as to avoid its misuse;

(c) if so, the details thereof and by when, if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether it is also a fact that complaints against the in-laws and their family members are registered in the police stations even after lapse of ten or more years of the marriage and if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) National Commission for Women (NCW) has informed that there is no statistical data available to prove that Section 498-A of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) is being misused by women to harass their in-laws.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d) In terms of Section 398-A of the IPC, if a person being the husband or the relative of the husband of a woman subjects her to cruelty, he can be held guilty of offence under the said Section. Subjecting the woman to cruelty at any time during the marriage is culpable under this Section.

Bill for protection of women from domestic violence

† 2699. DR. PRABHA THAKUR:
DR. VIJAY MALLYA:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) by when the Bill giving legal protection to women against domestic violence be introduced;

(b) whether there have been any provisions to crack down on physical sexual, verbal and economic abuse on women;

(c) whether the Bill covers harassment by way of unlawful dowry demands; and

(d) the provisions made under the new legislation to give women rights to share household properties?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) The Bill is proposed to be introduced in Lok Sabha in Monsoon Session, 2005.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The Bill provides that notwithstanding anything contained in any other law for the time being in force, every woman in a domestic

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.